

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-19 were examined in the Office Action mailed August 23, 2005.

Applicants' note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 5, 9-11, 16, and 17 contain allowable subject matter. Claims 5, 9, 11, 16 and 17 have been amended into independent form, and thus, along with dependent claim 10, are in condition for allowance. In addition, claims 2-3, 8 and 12-13 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 5.

Applicants have further amended the claims as follows:

Claim 7 has been placed into independent form. As with allowable claim 5, claim 7 recites inactivation of the antilock brake system below a predetermined speed, and thus is allowable over the cited references. For example, U.S. Patent No. 5,322,355 to Jonner shows shifting into the free-wheeling position as a function of an anti-lock brake system control signal. The signals on lines 14a and 14 representing whether the control portion associated with the front or rear wheels is activated. However, the control signal generated by AND-gate 13 is only generated when at least one of the non-driven front wheels is controlled by the antilock brake system (*i.e.*, the antilock brake system is *activate*). Accordingly, the signal generated by the AND-gate 13 cannot be a control signal that signals the *deactivation* of the antilock brake system below a predetermined speed of the vehicle.

Claim 19 has been amended to place the claim in a form consistent with U.S. method claiming practice to address the pending § 112, second paragraph

rejection. In addition, method claim 19 also incorporated limitations allowable claim 5 and its parent claim 4, thus placing amended claim 19 into allowable condition.

Finally, new method claims 20-25 have been added. Like claim 19, these claims incorporate the limitations of an allowable claim, *i.e.*, claim 20 incorporates the limitations of allowable claim 9, claim 21 (allowable claim 10), claim 22 (allowable claim 11), claim 23 (allowable claim 16), claim 24 (allowable claim 17), and claim 25 (allowable claim 7).

#### **CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-3, 5, 7-13, 16-17 and 19-25 are in allowable form. Early and favorable consideration and issuance of a Notice of Allowance for these claims is respectfully requested.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

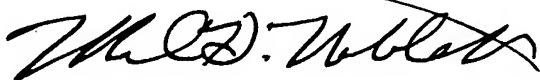
If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit

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Reply to Office Action

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. H. Neblett", is written over a horizontal line.

Gary R. Edwards  
Registration No. 31,824  
Mark H. Neblett  
Registration No. 42,028

CROWELL & MORING LLP  
Intellectual Property Group  
P.O. Box 14300  
Washington, DC 20044-4300  
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500  
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844